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(54) Method and apparatus for adaptive control of hybrid electric vehicle propulsion

(57) A series type hybrid electric vehicle 10 including a generator set 300, 310 having an internal combustion engine 300 and a generator 310, a battery array 30 and at least one electric motor 50, 60 includes a controller 200 for controlling propulsion of the vehicle 10. The controller 200 generates a second signal having a value proportional to the value of a first signal, indicative of user demand, and indicative of a demand of the at least one electric motor 50, 60, determines if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal, increases the value of a command signal to the at least one electric motor 50, 60, if the value of the first signal is not larger than the value of the second signal, and decreases the value of the command signal, if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal. A method for adaptively controlling propulsion of a series type hybrid electric vehicle 10 including an internal combustion engine 300 connected to a generator 310, a battery array 30 receiving electric current at least from the generator 310, and at least one electric motor 50, 60 receiving current from the battery array 30 includes generating a first signal having a value indicative of a user demand, generating a second signal having a value proportional to the first signal and indicative of a demand of the at least one electric motor 50, 60, determining if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal, increasing the value of a command signal to the at least one electric motor 50, 60, if the value of the first signal is not larger than the value of the second signal, and decreasing the value of the command signal, if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal.

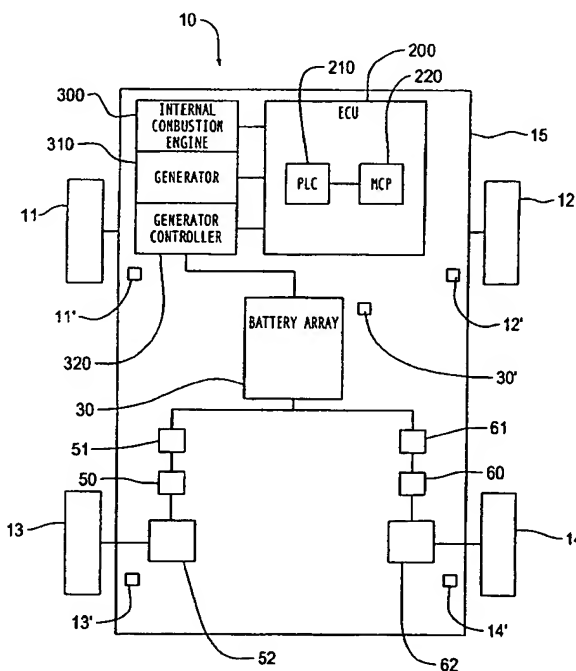


Fig. 1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

[0001] This invention relates to methods and apparatus for adaptively controlling the propulsion of a series hybrid electric vehicle.

2. Description of Related Art

[0002] The desire for cleaner air has caused various federal, state, and local governments to adopt or change regulations requiring lower vehicle emissions. Increasing urban traffic congestion has prompted a need for increases in public mass transit services. All mass transit systems utilizes buses, at least in part, to transport people into, out of, and within traffic congested urban areas. Conventional buses use diesel powered internal combustion engines. Diesel engines produce emissions, including carbon monoxide, that contribute to air pollution. It is possible to refine cleaner diesel fuel. However, cleaner diesel fuel is more costly to refine and causes a corresponding increase in the cost of bus service.

[0003] Alternative fuels have been used to reduce emissions and conserve oil resources. Compressed natural gas has been used as an alternative fuel. Compressed natural gas does not produce as much power in conventional internal combustion engines as gasoline and diesel and has not been widely developed or accepted as an alternative to gasoline and diesel.

[0004] Additives have also been developed for mixing with gasoline to reduce emissions. Ethanol and MTBE have been added to gasoline to oxygenate the combustion of gasoline and reduce emissions of carbon monoxide. These additives, however, are believed to cause decreased gas mileage and, in the case of MTBE, to be a potential public health threat.

[0005] Electric vehicles have been developed that produce zero emissions. Electric vehicles are propelled by an electric motor that is powered by a battery array on board the vehicle. The range of electric vehicles is limited as the size of the battery array which can be installed on the vehicle is limited. Recharging of the batteries can only be done by connecting the battery array to a power source. Electric vehicles are not truly zero emitters when the electricity to charge the battery array is produced by a power plant that burns, for example, coal.

[0006] Hybrid electric vehicles have also been developed to reduce emissions. Hybrid electric vehicles include an internal combustion engine and at least one electric motor powered by a battery array. In a parallel type hybrid electric vehicle, both the internal combustion engine and the electric motor are coupled to the drive train via mechanical means. The electric motor may be used to propel the vehicle at low speeds and to assist

the internal combustion engine at higher speeds. The electric motor may also be driven, in part, by the internal combustion engine and be operated as a generator to recharge the battery array.

5 [0007] In a series type hybrid electric vehicle, the internal combustion engine is used only to run a generator that charges the battery array. There is no mechanical connection of the internal combustion engine to the vehicle drive train. The electric traction drive motor is powered by the battery array and is mechanically connected to the vehicle drive train.

10 [0008] Conventional internal combustion engine vehicles control propulsion by increasing and decreasing the flow of fuel to the cylinders of the engine in response to the position of an accelerator pedal. Electric and hybrid electric vehicles also control propulsion by increasing or decreasing the rotation of the electric motor or motors in response to the position of an accelerator pedal. Electric and series type hybrid electric vehicles may be unable to accelerate properly if the power available from the battery or batteries and/or genset is insufficient.

15 [0009] Conventional internal combustion engine vehicles may also include systems to monitor the slip of a wheel or wheels to thereby control the engine and/or the brakes of the vehicle to reduce the slip of the wheel or wheels. In hybrid electric vehicles, however, it is necessary to control the speed and torque of the electric motor or motors to control the slip of wheels.

30 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The invention provides methods and apparatus for adaptively controlling the propulsion of series type hybrid electric vehicles 10.

35 [0011] An exemplary embodiment of a series type hybrid electric vehicle 10 according to the invention, including an internal combustion engine 300 connected to a generator 310, a battery array 30 receiving current at least from the generator 310, and at least one electric motor 50, 60 receiving current from the battery array 30, is adaptively controlled so that a command signal to the at least one electric motor 50, 60 follows and is proportional to a signal having a value indicative of a user demand. The vehicle propulsion is also adaptively controlled based on a state of charge and temperature of a battery array 30 of the vehicle 10, an emission mode of the vehicle 10, a regenerative braking mode of the vehicle 10, and a nominal operating state of the at least one electric motor 50, 60.

40 [0012] According to an exemplary embodiment, a method according to the invention for adaptively controlling propulsion of a series type hybrid electric vehicle 10 including an internal combustion engine 300 connected to a generator 310, a battery array 30 receiving electric current at least from the generator 310, and at least one electric motor 50, 60 receiving current from the battery array 30, includes generating a first signal having a value indicative of a user demand, generating

a second signal having a value proportional to the first signal and indicative of a demand of the at least one electric motor 50, 60, determining if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal, increasing the value of a command signal to the at least one electric motor 50, 60, if the value of the first signal is not larger than the value of the second signal, and decreasing the value of the command signal, if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal.

[0013] In one example the method further comprises: determining if the vehicle is in at least one of a first regenerative braking mode, a second regenerative braking mode and a third regenerative braking mode; decreasing regenerative braking, if the vehicle is in the first regenerative braking mode; decreasing regenerative braking if a battery state of charge is approaching an upper control limit and increasing regenerative braking if the battery state of charge is approaching a lower control limit, if the vehicle is in the second regenerative braking mode; and increasing regenerative braking, if the vehicle is in the third regenerative braking mode.

[0014] Advantageously, the vehicle includes two electric motors and the method further comprises: determining if one of the two electric motors is initially operating nominally; resetting a drive warning and faults, if the one electric motor is not initially operating nominally; determining if the one electric motor is operating nominally after resetting the drive warning and faults; and at least one of shutting down the one electric motor and shifting torque to the other electric motor, if the one electric motor is not operating nominally after resetting the drive warning and faults.

[0015] Advantageously, the method further comprises: determining if the other electric motor is operating nominally, if the one electric motor is at least one of initially operating nominally and operating nominally after resetting the drive warning and faults; increasing torque and velocity upper control limits of the one electric motor, if the other electric motor is not operating nominally; and shifting torque to the one electric motor, if the other electric motor is not operating nominally.

[0016] Advantageously, the method further comprises: determining if traction of the vehicle is maintained; decreasing the value of command signals to the one electric motor and the other electric motor, if traction is not maintained; and maintaining the value of the command signals to the one electric motor and the other electric motor, if traction is maintained.

[0017] Advantageously, the one electric motor is operating nominally if a voltage and temperature of the one electric motor are within predetermined parameters.

[0018] Advantageously, the controller: determines if the vehicle is in at least one of a first regenerative braking mode, a second regenerative braking mode and a third regenerative braking mode; decreases regenerative braking, if the vehicle is in the first regenerative braking mode; decreases regenerative braking if a bat-

tery state of charge is approaching an upper control limit and increases regenerative braking if the battery state of charge is approaching a lower control limit, if the vehicle is in the second regenerative braking mode; and increases regenerative braking, if the vehicle is in the third regenerative braking mode.

[0019] According to another exemplary embodiment, a series type hybrid electric vehicle 10 according to the invention includes an internal combustion engine 300 connected to a generator 310, a battery array 30 receiving current at least from the generator 310, at least one electric motor 50, 60 receiving current from the battery array 30, a sensor 45 that generates a first signal having a value indicative of a user demand, a controller 200 that generates a second signal having a value proportional to the first signal and indicative of a demand of the at least one electric motor 50, 60, determines if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal, increases the value of a command signal to the at least one electric motor 50, 60, if the value of the first signal is not larger than the value of the second signal, and decreases the value of the command signal, if the value of the first signal is larger than the value of the second signal.

[0020] In one example the vehicle further comprises two electric motors, wherein the controller: determines if one of the two electric motors is initially operating nominally; resets a drive warning and faults, if the one electric motor is not initially operating nominally; determines if the one electric motor is operating nominally after resetting the drive warning and faults; and at least one of shuts down the one electric motor and shifts torque to the other electric motor, if the one electric motor is not operating nominally after resetting the drive warning and faults.

[0021] Advantageously, the controller: determines if the other electric motor is operating nominally, if the one electric motor is at least one of initially operating nominally and operating nominally after resetting the drive warning and faults;

increases torque and velocity upper control limits of the one electric motor, if the other electric motor is not operating nominally; and shifts torque to the one electric motor, if the other electric motor is not operating nominally.

[0022] Advantageously, the controller: determines if traction of the vehicle is maintained; decreases the value of command signals to the one electric motor and the other electric motor, if traction is not maintained; and maintains the value of the command signals to the one electric motor and the other electric motor, if traction is maintained.

[0023] Advantageously, the one electric motor is operating nominally if a voltage and temperature of the one electric motor are within predetermined parameters.

[0024] Other features of the invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds and upon reference to the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] Various exemplary embodiments of this invention will be described in detail with reference to the following figures, wherein like numerals reference like elements, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is schematic view of an exemplary embodiment of a series hybrid electric vehicle according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a circuit for controlling charging of the battery array by the generator;

Fig. 3 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a circuit for controlling the electric motors;

Fig. 4 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a circuit of the motor controllers;

Fig. 5 is a diagram illustrating the relationship between the power created, the power stored, and the power consumed by the series hybrid electric vehicle according to the invention;

Fig. 6 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a master control switch;

Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a driver's input control panel for determining a driving mode;

Fig. 8 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a driver's input control panel for determining a regenerative braking mode;

Fig. 9 is a diagram schematically illustrating an exemplary embodiment of the relationship between an accelerator pedal and the electric motors; and Figs. 10-15 are flowcharts illustrating an exemplary adaptive control of the propulsion of the series hybrid electric vehicle.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

[0026] Referring to Fig. 1, an exemplary embodiment of a series type hybrid electric vehicle 10 which embodies the invention includes a plurality of wheels 11, 12, 13, and 14 and a vehicle chassis 15. The wheels 13 and 14 are coupled to electric motors 50 and 60, respectively, through gear boxes 52 and 62, respectively. The wheels 13 and 14 are independently mounted to respective suspension components, such as swing arms. In this embodiment, the wheels 13 and 14 are not coupled together by an axle. In other embodiments, the wheels 13 and 14 may be coupled together, for example, by an axle.

[0027] The wheels 13 and 14 may be either the front wheels or the rear wheels of the vehicle 10. In this embodiment, the wheels 11 and 12 are not driven and may be coupled together by an axle. In other embodiments, the wheels 11 and 12 may be driven.

[0028] Four wheel speed sensors 11'-14' are provided for sensing the rotational speed of each wheel 11-14, respectively.

[0029] In an exemplary embodiment of a vehicle which embodies this invention, the vehicle 10 is a bus having an occupancy capacity in excess of 100. However, it should be appreciated that the vehicle may be a bus of a smaller capacity or that the vehicle may be a smaller passenger vehicle, such as a sedan. Further, the invention is not limited to passenger vehicles, the invention can be used in any type of motor vehicle, including trucks, boats, etc. In various exemplary embodiments, the vehicle may be any size and form currently used or later developed.

[0030] The electric motors 50 and 60 are powered by a battery array 30 and are controlled by motor controllers 51 and 61, respectively. A battery array temperature sensor 30' detects the temperature of the battery array 30.

[0031] According to an exemplary embodiment of the vehicle 10, the electric motors 50 and 60 are synchronous, permanent magnet DC brushless motors. Each electric motor 50 and 60 is rated for 220 Hp and 0-11,000 rpm. The maximum combined power output of the electric motors 50 and 60 is thus 440 Hp. The permanent magnet DC brushless motors include permanent magnets, such as rare earth magnets, for providing a magnetic field as opposed to AC induction motors which create or induce a magnetic field on the rotating portion of the motor. The DC brushless motors are thus inherently more efficient than AC induction motors as no losses occur from inducing the magnetic field. The DC brushless motors also have a more useful torque profile, a smaller form factor, and lower weight than AC induction motors. The DC brushless motors also require less energy input for an equivalent power output than AC induction motors. However, this invention is not limited to permanent magnet DC brushless motors, and other types of electric motors, such as AC induction motors, can be used.

[0032] The series type hybrid electric vehicle 10 also includes a generator set (genset) 300, 310 including an internal combustion engine 300 and a generator 310 that is driven by the internal combustion engine 300. The internal combustion engine 300 may be powered by gasoline, diesel, or compressed natural gas. It should be appreciated, however, that the internal combustion engine 300 may be replaced by a fuel cell, turbine or any other number of alternatives for creating usable electric power.

[0033] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the internal combustion engine 300 may be a 2.5 liter Ford LRG-425 engine powered by compressed natural gas. The 2.5 liter Ford LRG-425 engine produces 70 Hp. It should be appreciated that the power output of such an engine may be increased by increasing the RPM of the engine and decreased by decreasing the RPM of the engine. In this embodiment with two 220 Hp electric motors 50 and 60 and an internal combustion engine 300 operating at 70 Hp, the performance enhancement factor of the vehicle 10 is 440/70, or at least

6.2. Other internal combustion engines can of course be utilized.

[0034] In this embodiment, the generator 310 is a DC brushless generator that produces, for example, 240-400 V_{AC}. Other types of generators may be employed. In an exemplary embodiment of the vehicle 10, the generator is operated to produce 345 V_{AC} during certain drive modes.

[0035] An output shaft of the internal combustion engine 300 is connected to the generator 310 to power the generator 310 and the AC voltage output by the generator 310 is converted to a DC voltage by a generator controller 320. The converted DC voltage charges the battery array 30. The battery array 30 may include, for example, 26 deep cycle, lead-acid batteries of 12 volts each connected in series. It should be appreciated, however, that other batteries, such as nickel cadmium, metal hydride or lithium ion, may be used and that any number of batteries can be employed, as space permits. In this embodiment, depending upon the load on the vehicle 10, the battery array voltage ranges between 240 and 400 V_{DC}.

[0036] An electronic control unit (ECU) 200 includes a programmable logic controller (PLC) 210 and a master control panel (MCP) 220. The MCP 220 receives information from various sensors, such as the wheel speed sensors 11'-14' and the battery array temperature sensor 30', and provides this information to gauges or other outputs in the vehicle 10, as desired. The PLC 210 executes various programs to control various components of the vehicle 10, for example, the internal combustion engine 300, the generator 310, the generator controller 320, the electric motors 50 and 60, and the motor controllers 51 and 61.

[0037] Although not shown in the drawings, the vehicle 10 may include a cooling system or cooling systems for the internal combustion engine 300, the generator controller 320, the battery array 30, the motor controllers 51 and 61, and the motors 50 and 60. The cooling system may be a single system which includes a coolant reservoir, a pump for pumping the coolant through a heat exchanger such as a radiator and a fan for moving air across the heat exchanger or a plurality of cooling systems similarly constructed. The ECU 200 controls the cooling systems, including the pumps and the fans, to perform a heat shedding operation in which the heat generated by the engine 300, the controllers 320, 51, and 61, the battery array 30, the motors 50 and 60, and various other systems is released to the atmosphere. Any acceptable means and methods for cooling the vehicle components may be utilized.

[0038] As shown in Fig. 2, the coils of the generator 310 are connected to the generator controller 320 by leads 311, 312, and 313. The generator controller 320 includes two switching insulated or isolated gate bipolar transistors (IGBT) 330 per phase of the generator 310 and their corresponding diodes. In an exemplary embodiment including a three phase generator 310, the

generator controller 320 includes 6 IGBT 330 and six corresponding diodes.

[0039] The PLC 210 controls each IGBT 330 of the generator controller 320 to control the conversion of the AC voltage of the generator 310 to the DC voltage for charging the battery array 30. The PLC 210 may switch one or more of the IGBT 330's off when the SOC of the battery array 30 reaches an upper control limit, to stop the conversion of the AC voltage to DC voltage and prevent overcharging of the battery array 30.

[0040] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the engine 300 runs continuously during operation of the vehicle 10 and continuously turns the shaft 315 of the generator 310. The PLC 210 switches each IGBT 330 on and off via high speed pulse width modulation (PWM) to control charging of the battery array 30. It should be appreciated however that the PLC 210 may control the charging of the battery array 30 by turning the engine 300 on and off, or in the alternative, by changing the RPM's of the engine 300.

[0041] A possible control circuit for the electric motors 50 and 60 is illustrated in Fig. 3, and includes the motor controllers 51 and 61. The motor controllers 51 and 61 receive power from the battery array 30 and distribute the power to the electric motors 50 and 60 by switches B1-B6 of pulse width modulation (PWM) inverters 54 and 64. The PWM inverters 54 and 64 generate AC current from the DC current received from the battery array 30. The battery current I_B is distributed by the switches B1-B6, for example IGBT, of the PWM inverters 54 and 64 into motor currents I₁, I₂, and I₃ for driving the motors 50 and 60.

[0042] The motor controllers 51 and 61 distribute the battery current I_B via the switches B1-B6 by factoring feedback from position sensors 53 and 63 and encoders 56 and 66 that determine the timing or pulsing of electromagnets of the motors 50 and 60. The pole position sensors 53 and 63 determine the pole positions of the permanent magnets of the motors 50 and 60 and the encoders 56 and 66 determine the phase angle. It should be appreciated that each pair of pole position sensors 53 and 63 and encoders 56 and 66, respectively, may be replaced by a phase position sensor and the phase change frequency may be read to determine the speed of rotation of the electric motors 50 and 60.

[0043] The motor controllers 51 and 61 calculate the motor connector voltages U₁₂, U₃₁, and U₂₃ based on the rotary velocity and the known flux value of the motors 50 and 60 between the motor connectors. The operating voltage of the inverters 54 and 64 is then determined by the rectified voltages of the diodes of the switches B1-B6 or by the voltage U_i of an intermediate circuit including a capacitor C. If the voltage U_i becomes larger than the battery voltage U_B, uncontrolled current may flow to the battery array 30. Voltage sensors 55 and 65 determine the voltage U_i and the motor controllers 51 and 61 compare the voltage U_i to the battery voltage U_B. The motor controllers 51 and 61 activate the switches B1-B6 to

cause magnetizing current to flow directly to the motors 50 and 60 to avoid unnecessary recharging of the battery array 30.

[0044] As shown in Fig. 3, each motor controller 51 and 61 receives control data from the ECU 200 through a controller area network (CAN). The ECU 200 can communicate with the various sensors and the motor controllers 51 and 61 by, for example, DeviceNet™, an open, global industry standard communication network.

[0045] Referring to Fig. 4, each motor controller 51 and 61 includes a control unit 101 including a field axis current and torque axis current detector 102. The detector 102 calculates the torque axis current I_t and the field axis current I_f of each motor 50 and 60 by executing a 3-phase, 2-phase coordinate transfer from the input of the pole position sensors 53 and 64 and the encoders 56 and 66. The torque axis current I_t and the field axis current I_f calculated by the detector 102 are input to a field axis current and torque axis current control unit 103. The current control unit 103 receives a field axis current reference value I_{fref} from a field axis current reference control unit 104 and receives a torque axis current reference value I_{tref} from a torque axis current reference control unit 105.

[0046] The reference control units 104 and 105 determine the current reference values I_{fref} and I_{tref} by comparing a torque reference value T_{ref} (which is determined by the position of an accelerator pedal of the vehicle) with the actual rotational velocity determined by an rpm calculator 106 that receives input from the encoders 56 and 66. A 2/3 phase changer 107 receives input from a phase calculator 108 and calculates the 3-phase AC reference values by performing a 2-phase/3-phase coordinate transformation. A PWM control unit 109 generates a PWM signal by comparing the 3-phase reference values with a triangular wave signal which is input to the PWM inverters 54 and 64.

[0047] Referring to Fig. 5, the relationship between the power generated, the power stored, and the power consumed over time, by the series hybrid electric vehicle 10 according to the invention will be explained.

[0048] Power is consumed from the battery array 30 by the electric motors 50 and 60 during acceleration of the vehicle 10 to a cruising speed. As shown in Fig. 5, the vehicle 10 reaches cruising speed at time t_1 which corresponds to a peak power P_{peak} of the electric motors 50 and 60. The peak power P_{peak} of the electric motors 50 and 60 is dependent on the driving mode (discussed below) of the vehicle 10 selected by the operator. In the exemplary embodiment of the invention in which the electric motors 50 and 60 are each 220 Hp, the peak power P_{peak} consumed by the electric motors 50 and 60 is 440 Hp.

[0049] The power consumption (traction effort) of the electric motors 50 and 60 during acceleration is represented by the curve below the horizontal axis and the area defined by the curve below the horizontal axis between the times t_0 and t_2 represents the total power con-

sumption of the vehicle 10 during acceleration. In the event that the SOC of the battery array 30 is insufficient to achieve the cruising speed, the ECU 200 controls the motor controllers 51 and 61 to limit the peak power P_{peak} the electric motors 50 and 60 may draw from the battery array 30. After the vehicle 10 has accelerated to cruising speed, the traction effort of the electric motors 50 and 60 may be reduced between the time t_1 and the time t_2 , and the power consumption by the electric motors 50 and 60 may also be reduced.

[0050] The cruising speed of the vehicle 10 is maintained between the time t_2 and the time t_3 . In this embodiment, during the time between t_2 and t_3 , the genset 300, 310 is operated to produce power P_{gen} higher than the power consumption (traction effort) of the electric motors 50 and 60 necessary to maintain the vehicle's cruising speed. The differential in power between the traction effort and the power generated P_{gen} is stored in the battery array 30.

[0051] The power P_{gen} generated by the genset 300, 310, in this embodiment, is dependent on the rpm of the engine 300 and a user demand signal sent to the genset 300, 310 that is controlled by the ECU 200. The ECU 200 controls the engine 300 to generally maintain the rpm of the engine 300, and the power generated P_{gen} constant. However, it should be appreciated that the ECU 200 may control the engine 300 to reduce or increase the rpm of the engine 300, and thus the reduce or increase, respectively, the power generated P_{gen} .

[0052] The power generated P_{gen} by the genset 300, 310 may be reduced if the SOC of the battery array 30 approaches an upper control limit at which the battery array 30 may become overcharged. The power generated P_{gen} by the genset 300, 310 may be increased if the SOC of the battery array 30 approaches a lower control limit at which the battery array 30 would be unable to drive the electric motors 50 and 60 with enough torque to propel the vehicle 10. In an exemplary embodiment of the vehicle 10 in which the engine 300 is a 2.5 liter Ford LRG-425 engine powered by compressed natural gas, the power generated P_{gen} is 70 Hp.

[0053] Regenerative braking occurs between the times t_3 and t_4 when the vehicle 10 decelerates after release of the accelerator pedal or when the vehicle 10 travels on a downhill slope at a constant speed. During regenerative braking, the electric motors 50 and 60 function as generators and current is supplied to the battery array 30 by the electric motors 50 and 60. The power generated $P_{braking}$ during regenerative braking is stored in the battery array 30.

[0054] The power generated by the genset 300, 310 during maintenance of the cruising speed and the power generated by regenerative braking $P_{braking}$ is represented by the curve above the horizontal axis and the area A_2 defined by the curve above the horizontal axis represents the total energy creation and storage of the vehicle 10 during maintenance of the cruising speed and regenerative braking.

[0055] The power P_{gen} of the genset 300, 310 and the regenerative braking power P_{braking} are controlled by the ECU 200 to substantially equal the energy consumption (traction effort) of the electric motors 50 and 60 during acceleration. In other words, the area A_1 defined by the curve below the horizontal axis is equal to the area A_2 defined by the curve above the horizontal axis. The ECU 200 controls the traction effort of the electric motors 50 and 60 (including the peak power P_{peak}) and the power generated P_{gen} so that the power generated and the power stored do not exceed the power consumed, and vice versa, so as to maintain the SOC of the battery array 30 within a range of control limits. The ECU 200 controls the power generated P_{gen} and the traction effort of the electric motors 50 and 60 so that the ampere hours during energy consumption do not exceed the thermal capacity of the battery array during power creation and storage.

[0056] An exemplary method for adaptively controlling the state of charge SOC of the battery array 30 is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/663,118, filed September 15, 2000, the entire contents of which are herein incorporated by reference.

[0057] This embodiment includes a master control switch. Referring to Fig. 6, a master control switch 20 positioned, for example, in an operator area of the vehicle 10, includes an OFF position, a DRIVE ENABLE position and an ENGINE RUN position. Any acceptable switch mechanism can be employed. The rotary switch 20 in Fig. 6 is merely an example of an acceptable switch. The position of the switch 20 is input to the MCP 220. When the switch 20 is moved to the DRIVE ENABLE position, the PLC 210 controls the electric motors 50 and 60 to run the vehicle in a driver selected zero emissions mode by drawing power from the battery array 30. The engine 300 is not operated during the zero emissions mode, i.e., when the switch 20 is in the DRIVE ENABLE position. The range of the vehicle 10 in zero emissions mode is limited as the SOC of the battery array 30 will eventually be lowered below a level sufficient to drive the electric motors 50 and 60 to propel the vehicle.

[0058] When the switch 20 is moved to the ENGINE RUN position, the ECU 200 instructs the generator 310 to operate as a motor for starting the engine 300. During the starting of the engine 300, the generator 310 receives current from the battery array 30. The current is supplied until the engine 300 reaches a predetermined idling speed and then the current supply is stopped. The engine 300 then drives the generator 310 to charge the battery array 30, as necessary.

[0059] The ECU 200 controls the engine 300 by monitoring the engine speed (rpm) as sensed by a tachometer (not shown) and the fuel mixture as sensed by an oxygen sensor (not shown). The ECU 200 may, for example, control the amount of fuel injected into the engine 300 and/or the position of a throttle valve of the engine 300. The ECU 200 may also monitor engine conditions

such as the oil pressure and the coolant temperature as detected by sensors (not shown). An automatic zero emission mode is provided by the ECU 200 when the switch 20 is in the ENGINE RUN position when the SOC of the battery array 30 is sufficient or when the sensors of the vehicle 10 sense areas and routes where the zero emission mode is required. The ECU 200 will turn the engine 300 off, even though the switch 20 is in the ENGINE RUN position, when it determines that the zero emission mode is required. As discussed above, the zero emissions mode may be initiated when the SOC of the battery array 30 is sufficient or when designated areas or routes are entered. For example, the vehicle 10 may be equipped with sensors (not shown) responsive to signals from the global positioning system (GPS) or other signal emitting devices that indicate that the vehicle has entered an area or route where the zero emission mode is required.

[0060] This embodiment also includes a control panel that controls the driving mode of the vehicle. Referring to Fig. 7, a control panel 25 positioned, for example, in the operator area of the vehicle 10, includes a plurality of switches 26-29. After starting the vehicle 10 by moving the master switch 20 to the engine run position, one of the switches 26-29 is selected to establish a driving mode of the vehicle 10. A first driving mode F1 is established by selecting switch 26. In this embodiment, the first driving mode F1 is established for driving the vehicle at lower speeds and under conditions in which the vehicle 10 will start and stop frequently. A second driving mode F2 is established by selecting switch 27. The second driving mode F2 is established for driving the vehicle at higher speeds and under conditions in which the vehicle is started and stopped less frequently. The ECU 200 controls the electric motors 50 and 60 depending on which driving mode is established. The maximum power output and rpm of the electric motors 50 and 60 in the second driving mode F2 are higher than the maximum power output and rpm of the motors 50 and 60 in the first driving mode F1.

[0061] While two driving modes are shown in Fig. 7 and discussed above, any number of modes can be provided. These modes can be directed to different driving conditions, road conditions, weather conditions, and the like.

[0062] The control panel 25 also includes a switch 28 to establish a neutral mode N. In the neutral mode N, the electric motors 50 and 60 are disengaged by the ECU 200 and the vehicle 10 is not propelled by the electric motors 50 and 60, even if an accelerator pedal (discussed below) is pressed by the operator.

[0063] A reverse mode R is established by selecting a switch 29. In the reverse mode R, the electric motors 50 and 60 are controlled to rotate in the opposite direction of the first and second driving modes F1 and F2 to propel the vehicle 10 in a reverse direction.

[0064] This embodiment may also include a second control panel for controlling the regenerative braking of

the vehicle 10. Referring to Fig. 8, a second control panel 75 positioned, for example, in the operator area of the vehicle 10, includes a plurality of switches 76-78. After starting the vehicle 10 by moving the master switch 20 to the engine run position, one of the switches 76-78 is selected to establish a regenerative braking mode of the vehicle 10. A first regenerative braking mode R1 is established by selecting switch 76. In the first regenerative braking mode R1, the regenerative braking function is turned off. The first regenerative braking mode R1 may be selected during icy road conditions.

[0065] A second regenerative braking mode R2 may be selected by switch 77. The second braking mode R2 is selected when the regenerative braking effort should be minimal, such as wet road conditions or when the state of charge SOC of the battery array approaches an upper control limit UCL.

[0066] A third regenerative braking mode R3 may be selected by switch 78. The third braking mode R3 is selected when the regenerative braking efforts should be at a maximum, such as during dry road conditions or when the state of charge SOC of the battery array 30 approaches a lower control limit LCL.

[0067] Although the regenerative braking mode has been shown as selected by the operator, it should be appreciated that the ECU 200 may change the regenerative braking mode when certain conditions, such as slipping of any of the wheels 11-14, are detected. Moreover, while three modes are illustrated in this embodiment, any number of modes could be employed as desired, directed to any types of environmental conditions and/or operating parameters.

[0068] Referring to Fig. 9, the position of an accelerator pedal 40 is detected by a sensor 45. The sensor 45 sends a demand signal DEM indicative of the accelerator pedal 40 position, i.e., the user demand, to the MCP 220. The demand signal DEM has a value of zero when the accelerator pedal 40 is not depressed and a maximum value when the accelerator pedal 40 is fully depressed.

[0069] The ECU 200 sends a drive demand signal DRVDEM to the motor controllers 51 and 61. The drive demand signal DRVDEM follows and is proportional to the demand signal DEM of the sensor 45. However, due to a lag in the processing by the ECU 200, the instantaneous value of the demand signal DEM from the sensor 45 may be greater than or less than the drive demand signal DRVDEM produced by the ECU 200 and sent to the motor controllers 51 and 61. Accordingly, there is a difference in the signals equal to the difference between the instantaneous value of the demand signal DEM and the value of the drive demand signal DRVDEM. The motor controllers 51 and 61 send a drive command signal DRVCMD to the motors 50 and 60 to create torque and speed. The drive command signal DRVCMD follows and is proportional to the drive demand signal DRVDEM. The relationship between the value of the drive command signal DRVCMD and the instantaneous value of

the drive demand signal DRVDEM is similar to the relationship between the drive demand signal DRVDEM and the instantaneous value of the demand signal DEM.

[0070] The ECU 200 uses a proportional-integral-derivative (PID) control mode to adaptively control the propulsion of the vehicle 10. The control mode may be stored as a program in a memory of the ECU 200 and executed by the PLC 210. The proportional mode produces an output proportional to the difference between the instantaneous value of the demand signal DEM and the drive demand signal DRVDEM. The integral mode produces an output proportional to the amount of the difference and the length of time the difference is present. The derivative mode produces an output proportional to the rate of change of the difference. The PID control mode may be applied to other systems of the vehicle 10 in addition to the control of the motors 50 and 60 for controlling the propulsion of the vehicle 10 and may be applied to systems that have transient differences and to systems that have steady-state differences. All three components, proportional, integral, and derivative, of the PID control mode are summed and can be adjusted in real time to create a controlled output, thus changing the system responsiveness.

[0071] The PID control mode is provided with parameters within which the signals necessary to control the electric motors 50 and 60, including the drive command signal DRVCMD, are adaptively adjusted and controlled. For example, the drive demand signal DRVDEM generated by the ECU 200 is proportional to the demand signal DEM sent by the accelerator pedal position sensor 45. Generally, the value of the drive demand signal DRVDEM is equal to 100% of the value of the demand signal DEM. However, within the PID control mode, the value of the drive demand signal DRVDEM may be set equal to 110% of the value of the demand signal DEM in order to increase the responsiveness of the vehicle 10. Conversely, the value of the drive demand signal DRVDEM may be set equal to 90% of the value of the demand signal DEM in order to decrease the responsiveness of the vehicle 10, for example when the state of charge SOC of the battery array 30 is insufficient to meet a sudden increase in user demand.

[0072] Additionally, a drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL and a drive command lower control limit DRVCMDLCL of the drive command signal DRVCMD are adaptively adjusted by the PID control mode in response to vehicle conditions, such as the driving mode and/or an emission mode of the vehicle 10. The drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL and drive command lower control limit DRVCMDLCL may be empirically determined and dependent on service conditions, such as terrain and weather conditions, that the vehicle 10 will likely be operated under. It should also be appreciated that the PID parameters are also empirically determined and may be any value. For example, the PID parameters may be determined so that the value of the drive demand signal DRVDEM may be as low as

80% of the value of the demand signal DEM and as high as 120% of the value of the signal DEM.

[0073] An exemplary embodiment of a method for adaptively controlling the propulsion of the series hybrid electric vehicle will be explained with reference to Figs. 10-15. The control subroutines illustrated in Figs. 10-15 are executed concurrently at predetermined time intervals during operation of the vehicle.

[0074] Referring to Fig. 10, a throttle control subroutine begins in step S100 and proceeds to step S110 where it is determined if the demand signal DEM is smaller than the drive demand signal DRVDEM. If the demand signal DEM is not smaller than the drive demand signal DRVDEM (S110: NO), the control proceeds to step S120 where the drive command signal DRVCMD to the motors 50 and 60 is increased within the PID parameters. The control then returns to the beginning in step S140. If the demand signal DEM is smaller than the drive demand signal DRVDEM (S110: Yes), the control proceeds to step S130 where the drive command signal DRVCMD to the motors 50 and 60 is decreased within the PID parameters. The control then returns to the beginning in step S140.

[0075] Referring to Fig. 11, a battery array state of charge subroutine begins in step S200 and proceeds to step S210 where it is determined if the battery array state of charge SOC is sufficient to sustain a state of charge upper control limit UCL. If the state of charge SOC is not sufficient (S210: No), the control proceeds to step S220 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL parameters are lowered. The control then returns to the beginning in step S280. If the state of charge SOC is sufficient to sustain the state of charge upper control limit UCL (S210: Yes), the control proceeds to step S230 where it is determined if the battery array temperature is sufficient to sustain the state of charge upper control limit UCL.

[0076] If the battery array temperature is not sufficient to sustain the state of charge upper control limit UCL (S230: No), the control proceeds to step S220 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL parameters are lowered. The control then returns to the beginning in step S280. If the battery array temperature is sufficient to sustain the state of charge upper control limit UCL (S230: Yes), the control proceeds to step S240 where it is determined if the vehicle 10 is in the first driving mode F1. If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is not in the first driving mode F1 (S240: No), the control proceeds to step S250 where it is determined if the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL is less than a drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL2 associated with the second driving mode F2.

[0077] If it is determined that the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL is not less than the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL2 associated with the second driving mode F2 (S250: No), the control proceeds to step S220 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL parameters are low-

ered. The control then returns to the beginning in step S280. If it is determined that the drive command upper control value DRVCMDUCL is less than the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL2 associated with the second driving mode F2 (S250: Yes), the control proceeds to step S270 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL parameters are raised. The control then returns to the beginning in step S280.

[0078] If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is in the first driving mode F1 (S240: Yes), the control proceeds to step S260 where it is determined whether the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL is less than a drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL1 associated with the first driving mode F1. If the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL is not less than the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL1 associated with the first driving mode F1 (S260: No), the control proceeds to step S220 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL parameters are lowered. The control then returns to the beginning in step S280.

[0079] If the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL is less than the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL1 associated with the first driving mode F1 (S260: Yes), the control proceeds to step S270 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL parameters are raised. The control then returns to the beginning in step S280.

[0080] Referring to Fig. 12, an emission mode subroutine begins in step S300 and proceeds to step S310 where it is determined if the vehicle 10 is in a first emission mode. The first emission mode is a mode in which the engine 300 is at full output or where full output is allowed. If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is in the first emission mode (S310: Yes), the control proceeds to step S320 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL and the drive command lower control limit DRVCMDLCL are raised. The control then returns to the beginning in step S370.

[0081] If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is not in the first emission mode (S310: No), the control proceeds to step S330 where it is determined if the vehicle 10 is in a second emission mode. The second emission mode is a mode in which the engine 300 is at a minimum output. If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is in the second emission mode (S330: Yes), the control proceeds to step S340 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL and the drive command lower control limit DRVCMDLCL are modified. If the vehicle 10 was previously in the first emission mode, the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL and the drive command lower control limit DRVCMDLCL are lowered. If the vehicle 10 was previously in a third emission mode, the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL and the drive command lower control limit DRVCMDLCL are raised. The control then returns to the beginning in step S370.

[0082] If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is not in

the second emission mode (S330: No), the control proceeds to step S350 where it is determined if the vehicle 10 is in the third emission mode. The third emission mode is a mode in which the engine 300 is turned off. In other words, the third emission mode is a zero emission mode.

[0083] If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is in the third emission mode (S350: Yes), the control proceeds to step S360 where the drive command upper control limit DRVCMDUCL and the drive command lower control limit DRVCMDLCL are lowered. The control then returns to the beginning in step S370. If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is not in the third emission mode (S350: No), the control returns to the beginning in step S370.

[0084] Referring to Fig. 13, a regenerative braking mode subroutine begins in step S400 and proceeds to step S410 where it is determined if the vehicle is in the first regenerative braking mode R1. If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is in the first regenerative braking mode R1 (S410: Yes), the control proceeds to step S420 where feedforward regeneration mode settings associated with the first regeneration mode R1 are lowered. The feedforward regeneration mode settings are used to raise the PID parameters to quicken the response of the system. The control then returns to the beginning in step S 470.

[0085] If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is not in the first regenerative braking mode R1 (S410: No), the control proceeds to step S430 where it is determined if the vehicle is in the second regenerative braking mode R2. If the vehicle is in the second regenerative braking mode R2 (S430: Yes), the control proceeds to step S440 where the feedforward regeneration mode settings associated with the second regenerative braking mode R2 are modified. If the state of charge SOC is approaching the upper control limit UCL, the feedforward regeneration mode settings associated with the second regenerative braking mode R2 are lowered. Conversely, if the state of charge SOC is approaching the lower control limit LCL, the feedforward regeneration mode settings associated with the second regenerative braking mode R2 are raised. The control then returns to the beginning in step S 470.

[0086] If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is not in the second regenerative braking mode R2 (S430: No), the control proceeds to step S450 where it is determined if the vehicle 10 is in the third regenerative braking mode R3. If the vehicle 10 is in the third regenerative braking mode R3 (S450: Yes), the control proceeds to step S460 where the feedforward regeneration mode settings associated with the third regenerative braking mode R3 are raised. The control then returns to the beginning in step S470. If it is determined that the vehicle 10 is not in the third regenerative braking mode R3 (S450: No), the control returns to the beginning in step S470.

[0087] Referring to Fig. 14, a left traction control subroutine for the electric motor 50 (left drive), in an exem-

plary embodiment in which the vehicle 10 is rear wheel drive, begins in step S500 and proceeds to step S510 where it is determined if the electric motor 50 is operating nominally. According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the electric motor 50 is determined to be operating nominally if the voltage and temperature of the electric motor 50 are within predetermined parameters. If the electric motor 50 is not operating nominally (S510: No), the control proceeds to step S520 where a drive warning and/or faults are reset. The faults are error codes generated by the ECU 200 upon detection of abnormalities, such as a short circuit in an IGBT 330 or failure of an encoder 56 or 66. The control then proceeds to step S530 where it is determined if the electric motor 50 is operating nominally. If the electric motor is still not operating nominally (S530: No), the control proceeds to step S540 where the electric motor 50 is shut down if required and torque is shifted to the right side by increasing the torque drive command to the electric motor 60. The control then returns to the beginning in step S595.

[0088] If after resetting the drive warning and/or faults, it is determined that the electric motor 50 is operating nominally (S530: Yes), the control proceeds to step S 550 where it is determined if the electric motor 60 (right drive in the exemplary rear wheel drive vehicle 10) is operating nominally. The electric motor 60 is determined to be operating nominally if the voltage and temperature of the electric motor 60 are within predetermined parameters. If the electric motor 60 is not operating nominally (S550: No), the control proceeds to step S560 where torque is shifted to the left drive by increasing the drive to the electric motor 50 and increasing upper control limits of the torque and velocity of the electric motor 50. The control then proceeds to step S570. If it is determined that the electric motor 60 is operating nominally (S550: Yes), the control proceeds directly to step S570.

[0089] In step S570, it is determined if adequate traction is maintained. Adequate traction is not maintained if excessive slippage is detected between a rear wheel 13 or 14 and a speed reference which is a value slightly higher than the speed of the front wheels 11 and 12. If adequate traction is not maintained (S570: No), the control proceeds to step S580 where the drive to motors 50 and 60 is decreased until the speed of the wheels 13 and 14 matches the speed reference. The control then returns to the beginning in step S595. If adequate traction is maintained (S570: Yes), the drives to the motors 50 and 60 are maintained in step S590. The control then returns to the beginning in step S595.

[0090] Referring to Fig. 15, a right traction control subroutine including steps S600-S695 for the electric motor 60 (right drive) corresponds to the steps S500-S595 of the left traction control subroutine shown in Fig. 14. The right drive is checked in steps S610 and S630 to determine if the electric motor 60 is operating nominally and the left drive is checked in step S650 to determine if the electric motor 50 is operating nominally.

[0091] It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the ECU can be implemented using a single special purpose integrated circuit (e.g., ASIC) having a main or central processor section for overall, system-level control, and separate sections dedicated to performing various different specific computations, functions and other processes under control of the PLC. The ECU also can be a plurality of separate dedicated or programmable integrated or other electronic circuits or devices (e.g., hardwired electronic or logic circuits such as discrete element circuits, or programmable logic devices such as PLDs, PLAs, PALs, DSPs or the like). The ECU can be implemented using a suitably programmed general purpose computer, e.g., a microprocessor, microcontroller or other processor device (CPU or MPU), either alone or in conjunction with one or more peripheral (e.g., integrated circuit) data and signal processing devices. In general, any device or assembly of devices on which a finite state machine capable of implementing the flowcharts shown in Figs. 8-12 and described herein can be used as the ECU. A distributed processing architecture can be used for maximum data/signal processing capability and speed.

[0092] While the invention has been described with reference to various exemplary embodiments thereof, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments or constructions. To the contrary, the invention is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements. In addition, while the various elements of the disclosed invention are shown in various combinations and configurations, which are exemplary, other combinations and configurations, including more, less or only a single element, are also within the spirit and scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A method for adaptively controlling propulsion of a series type hybrid electric vehicle [10] including an internal combustion engine [300] connected to a generator [310], a battery array [30] receiving electric current at least from the generator [310], and at least one electric motor [50, 60] receiving current from the battery array [30], comprising:

generating a first signal having a value indicative of a user demand;

generating a second signal having a value proportional to the first signal and indicative of a demand of the at least one electric motor [50, 60];

determining if the value of the first signal is smaller than the value of the second signal;

increasing the value of a command signal to the at least one electric motor [50, 60], if the value of the first signal is not smaller than the value of the second signal; and

decreasing the value of the command signal, if the value of the first signal is smaller than the value of the second signal.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining if a state of charge of the battery array [30] and a temperature of the battery array [30] are sufficient to sustain a state of charge upper control limit; and

lowering a command signal upper control limit if at least one of the state of charge and the battery array temperature is not sufficient to sustain the state of charge upper control limit.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

determining if the vehicle [10] is in a first driving mode, if the state of charge and the battery array temperature are sufficient to sustain a state of charge upper control limit;

determining if the command signal upper control limit is lower than a command signal upper control limit associated with a second driving mode, if the vehicle [10] is not in the first driving mode;

lowering the command signal upper control limit, if the command signal upper control limit is not lower than the command signal upper control limit associated with the second driving mode; and

raising the command signal upper control limit, if the command signal upper control limit is lower than the command signal upper control limit associated with the second driving mode.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

determining if the command signal upper control limit is lower than a command signal upper control limit associated with the first driving mode, if the vehicle [10] is in the first driving mode;

lowering the command signal upper control limit, if the command signal upper control limit is not lower than the command signal upper control limit associated with the first driving mode; and

raising the command signal upper control limit, if the command signal upper control limit is lower than the command signal upper control limit associated with the first driving mode.

5. The method of any of claims 1 to 4, further comprising:

determining if the vehicle [10] is in at least one of a first emission mode, a second emission

mode and a third emission mode;
 raising a command signal upper control limit
 and a command signal lower control limit, if the
 vehicle [10] is in the first emission mode;
 lowering the command signal upper control lim- 5
 it and raising the command signal lower control
 limit, if the vehicle [10] is in the second emission
 mode; and
 lowering the command signal upper control lim- 10
 it and the command signal lower control limit, if
 the vehicle [10] is in the third emission mode.

6. A series type hybrid electric vehicle [10], compris-
 ing:

an internal combustion engine [300] connected
 to a generator [310];
 a battery array [30] receiving current at least
 from the generator [310];
 at least one electric motor [50, 60] receiving 20
 current from the battery array [30];
 a sensor [45] that generates a first signal hav-
 ing a value indicative of a user demand;
 a controller [200] that:

generates a second signal having a value
 proportional to the first signal and indica-
 tive of a demand of the at least one electric
 motor [50, 60];
 determines if the value of the first signal is 25
 smaller than the value of the second signal;
 increases the value of a command signal
 to the at least one electric motor [50, 60], if
 the value of the first signal is not smaller
 than the value of the second signal; and 30
 decreases the value of the command sig-
 nal, if the value of the first signal is smaller
 than the value of the second signal. 35

7. The vehicle [10] of claim 6, wherein the controller 40
 [200]:

determines if a state of charge of the battery
 array [30] and a temperature of the battery ar- 45
 ray [30] are sufficient to sustain a state of
 charge upper control limit; and
 lowers a command signal upper control limit if
 at least one of the state of charge and the bat-
 tery array temperature is not sufficient to sus-
 tain the state of charge upper control limit. 50

8. The vehicle [10] of claim 7, wherein the controller
 [200]:

determines if the vehicle [10] is in a first driving 55
 mode, if the state of charge and the battery ar-
 ray [30] temperature are sufficient to sustain the
 state of charge upper control limit;

determines if the command signal upper control
 limit is lower than a command signal upper con-
 trol limit associated with a second driving mode,
 if the vehicle [10] is not in the first driving mode;
 lowers the command signal upper control limit,
 if the command signal upper control limit is not
 lower than the command signal upper control
 limit associated with the second driving mode;
 and
 raises the command signal upper control limit,
 if the command signal upper control limit is low-
 er than the command signal upper control limit
 associated with the second driving mode.

9. The vehicle [10] of claim 8, wherein the controller
 [200]:

determines if the command signal upper control
 limit is lower than a command signal upper con-
 trol limit associated with the first driving mode,
 if the vehicle [10] is in the first driving mode;
 lowers the command signal upper control limit,
 if the command signal upper control limit is not
 lower than the command signal upper control
 limit associated with the first driving mode; and
 raises the command signal upper control limit,
 if the command signal upper control limit is low-
 er than the command signal upper control limit
 associated with the first driving mode.

10. The vehicle [10] of any of claims 6 to 9, wherein the
 controller [200]:

determines if the vehicle [10] is in at least one
 of a first emission mode, a second emission
 mode and a third emission mode;
 raises a command signal upper control limit and
 a command signal lower control limit, if the ve-
 hicle [10] is in the first emission mode;
 lowers the command signal upper control limit
 and raising the command signal lower control
 limit, if the vehicle [10] is in the second emission
 mode; and
 lowers the command signal upper control limit
 and the command signal lower control limit, if
 the vehicle [10] is in the third emission mode.

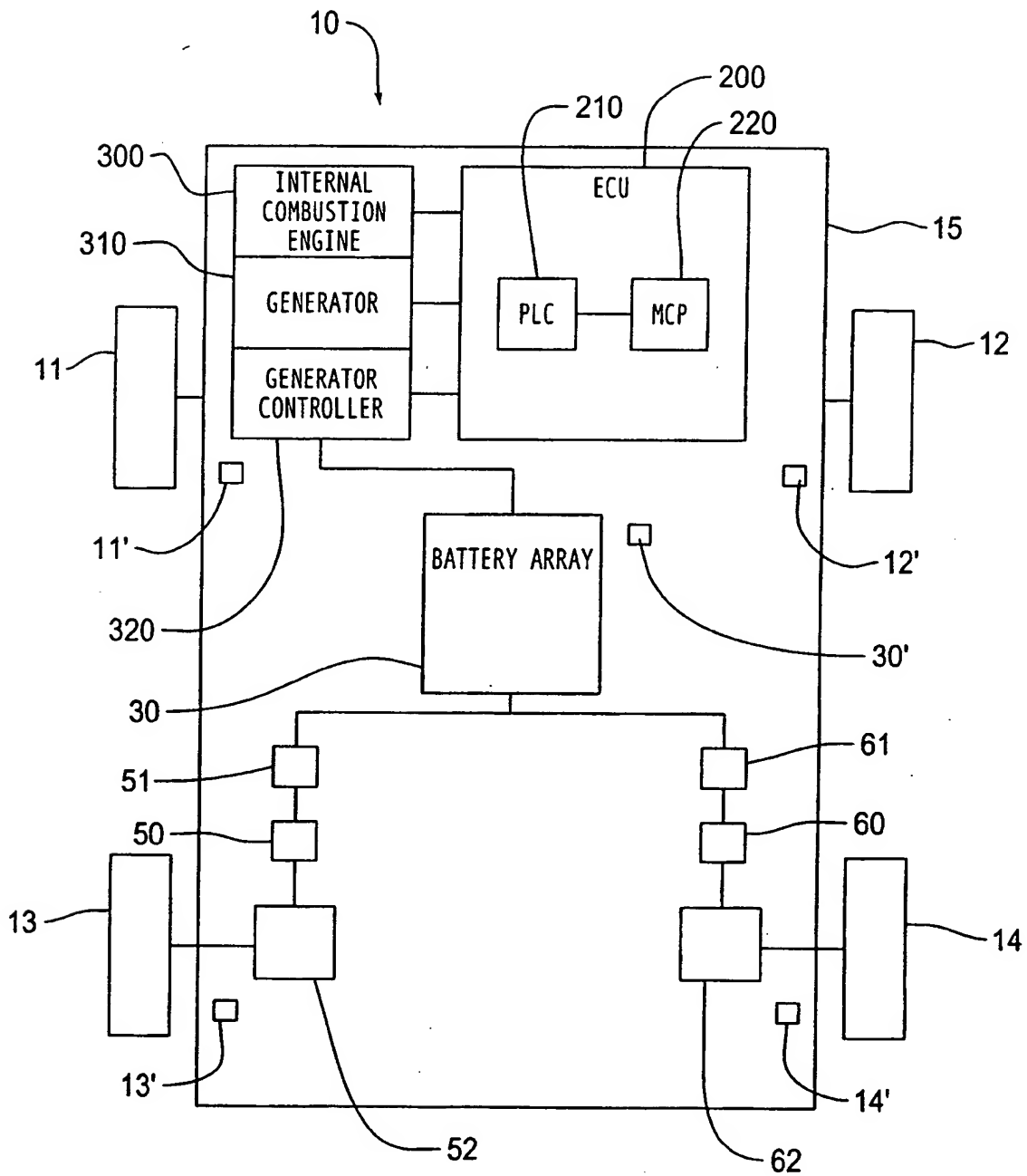


Fig. 1

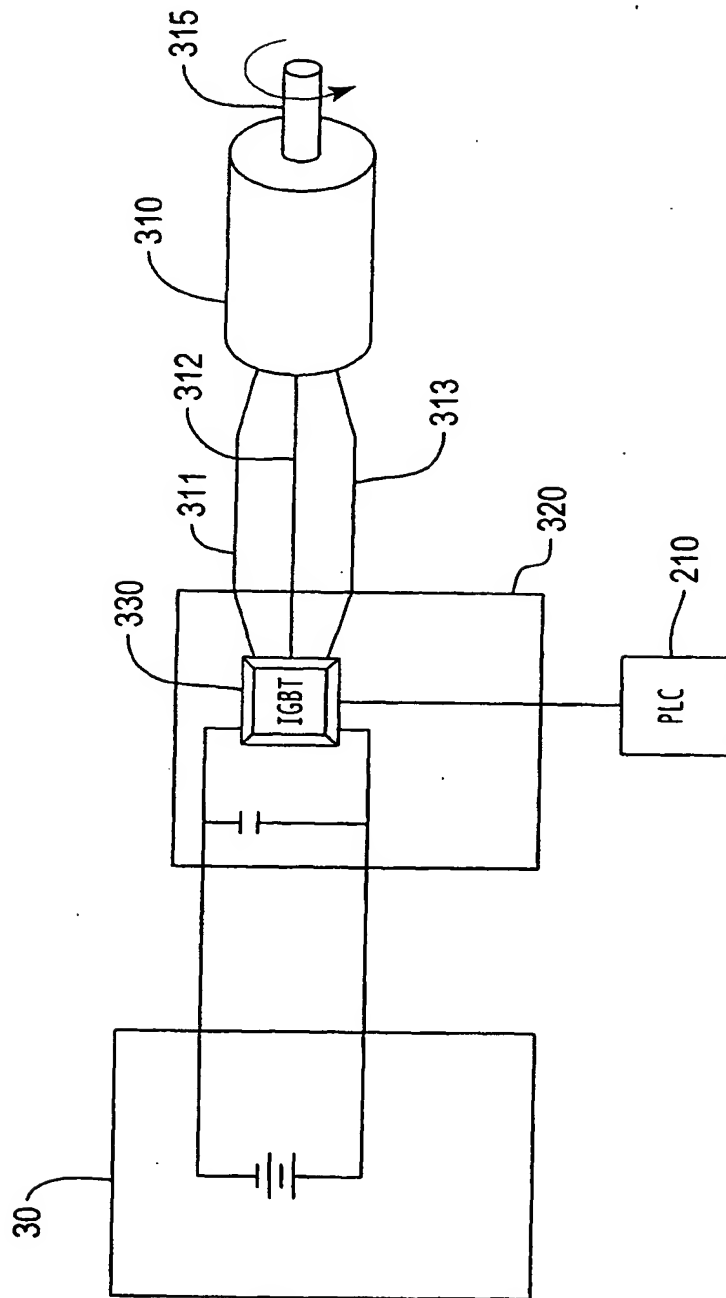


Fig. 2

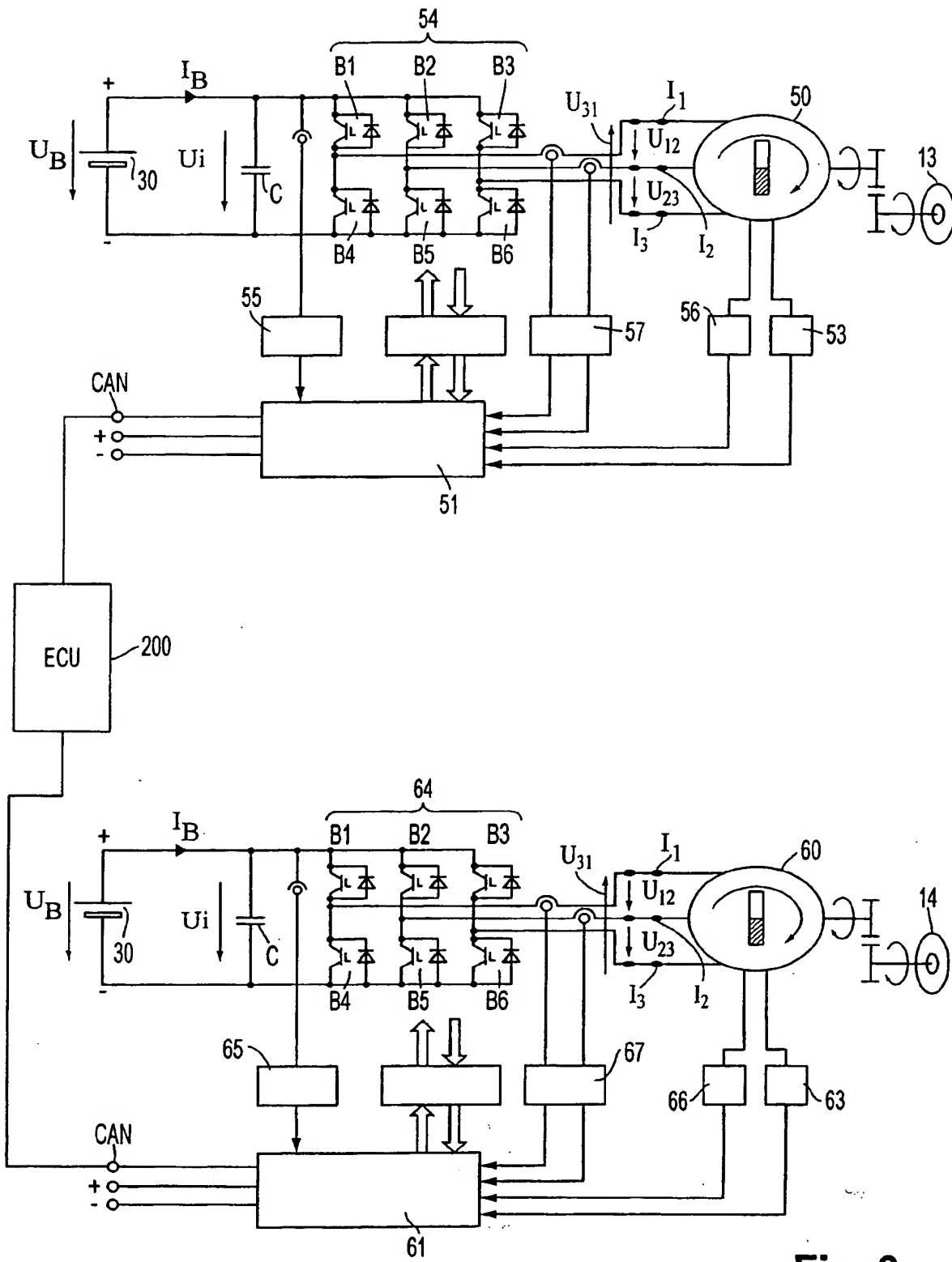


Fig. 3

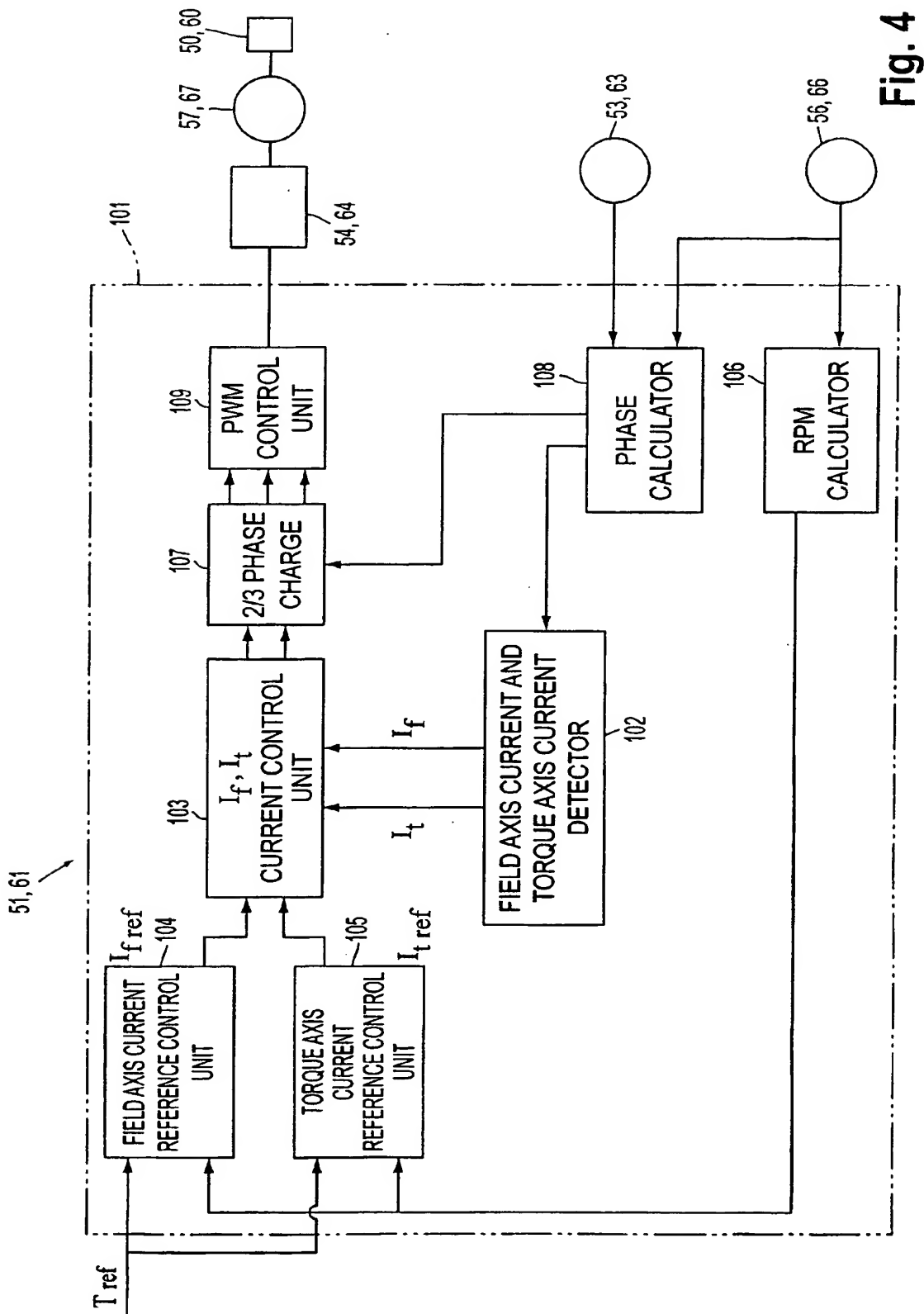


Fig. 4

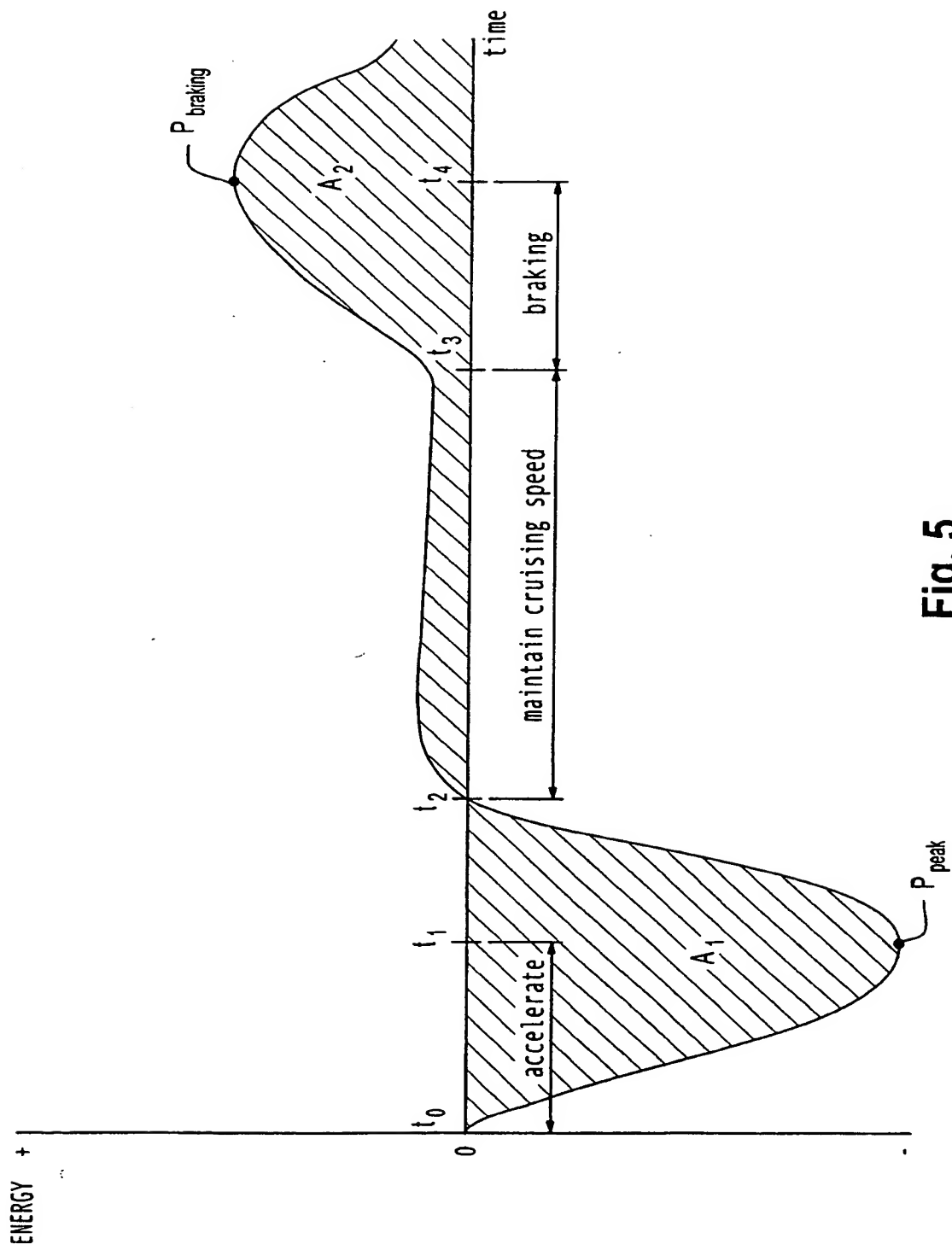


Fig. 5

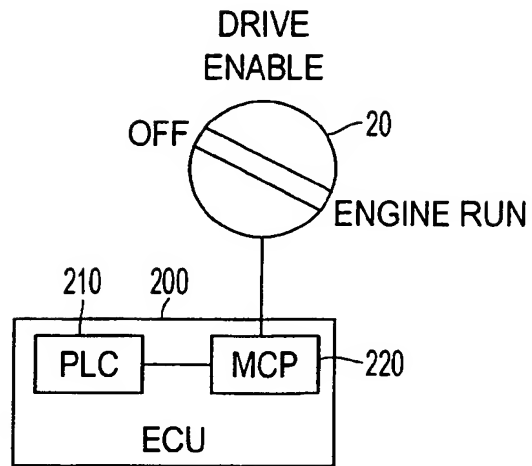


Fig. 6

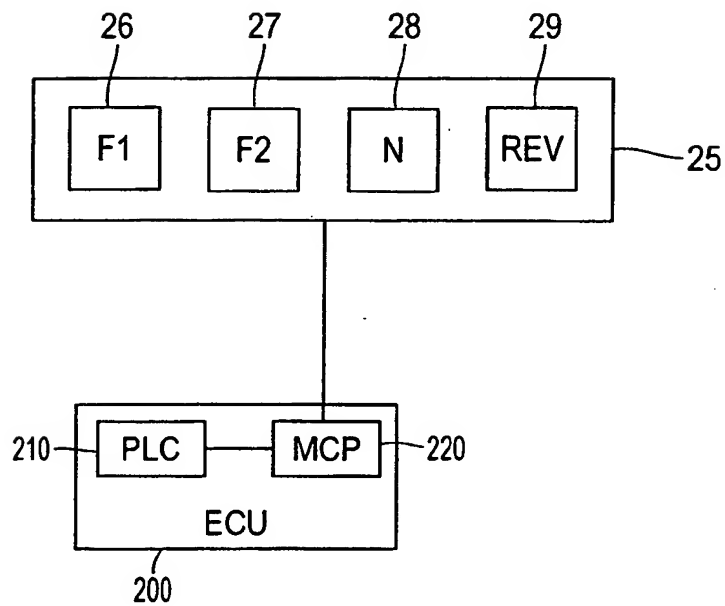


Fig. 7

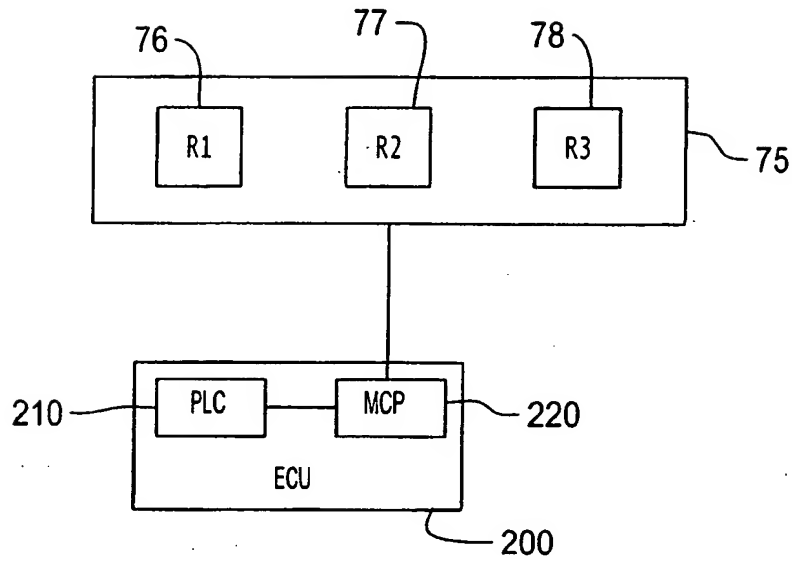


Fig. 8

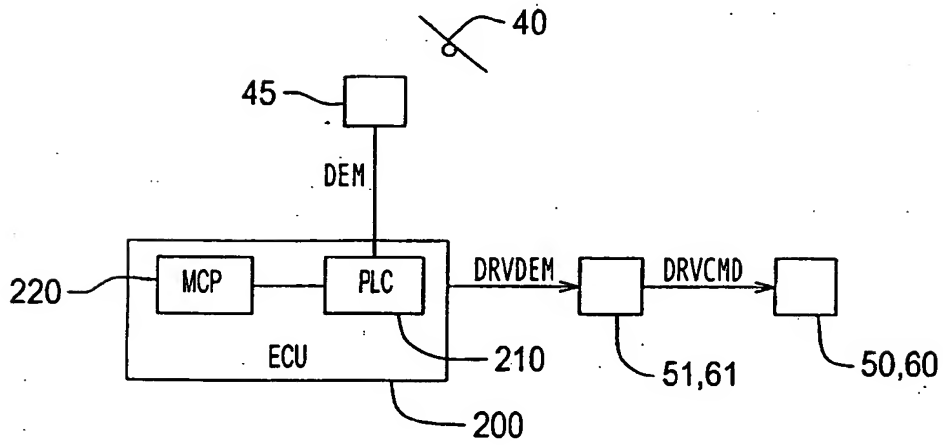
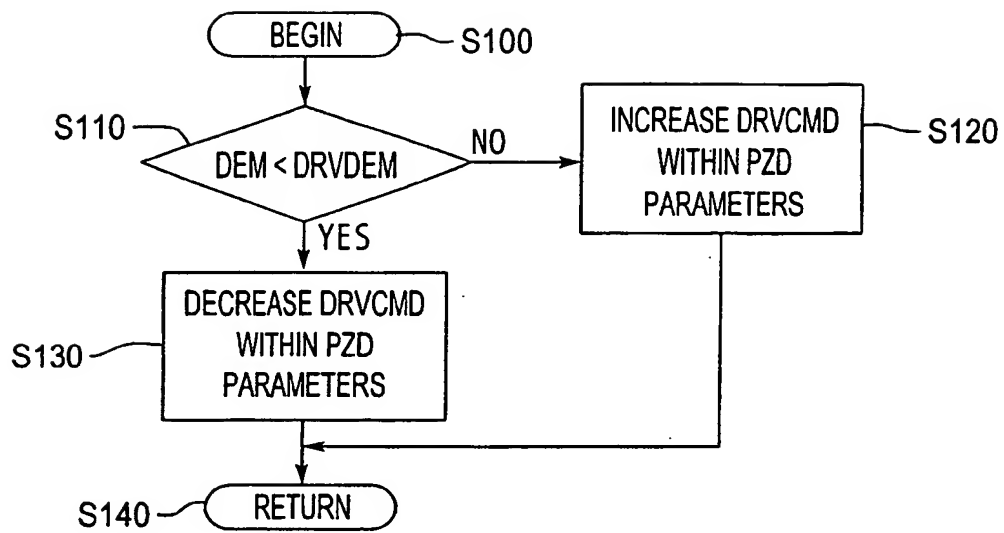


Fig. 9

**Fig. 10**

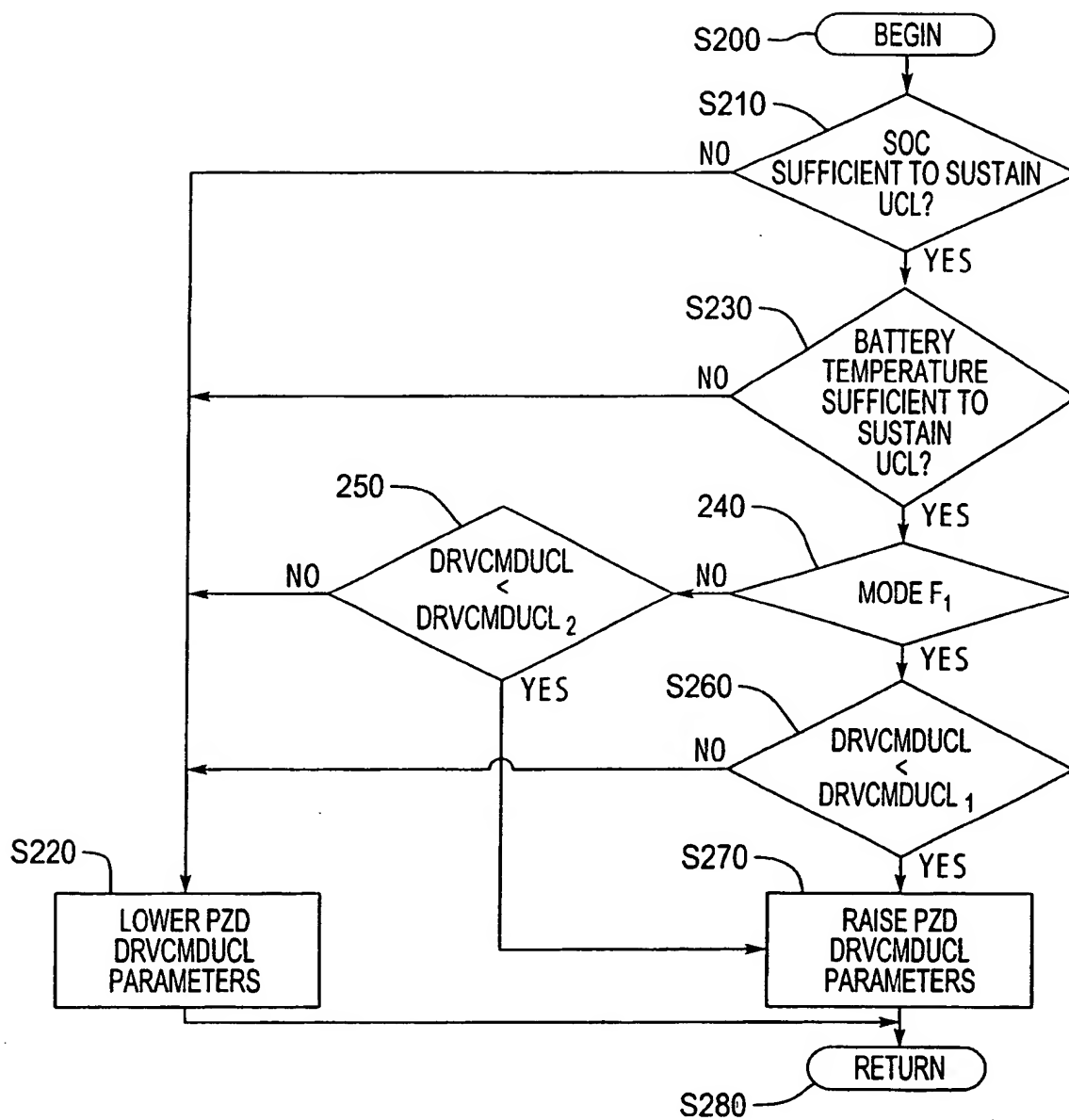


Fig. 11

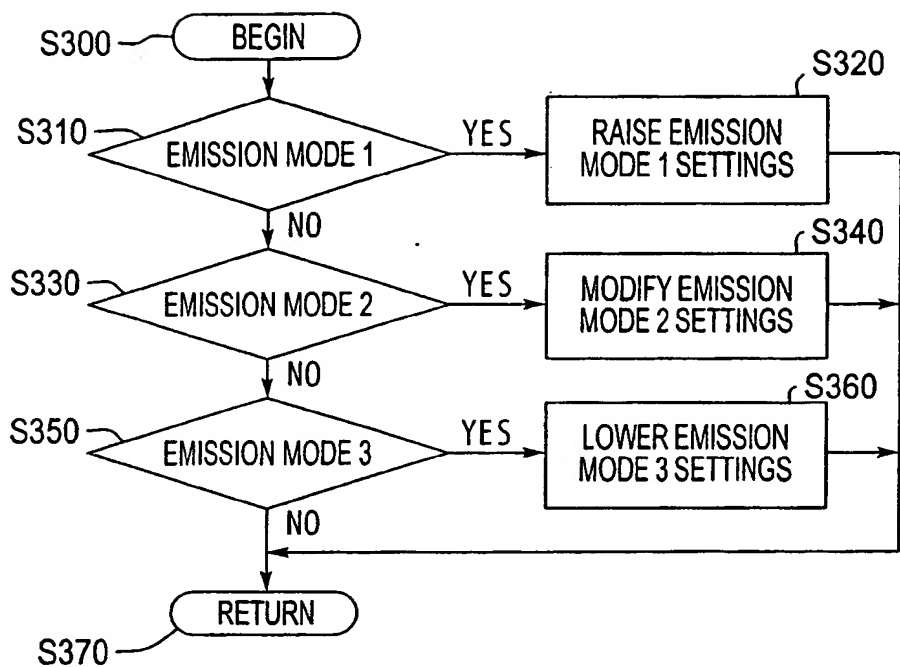


Fig. 12

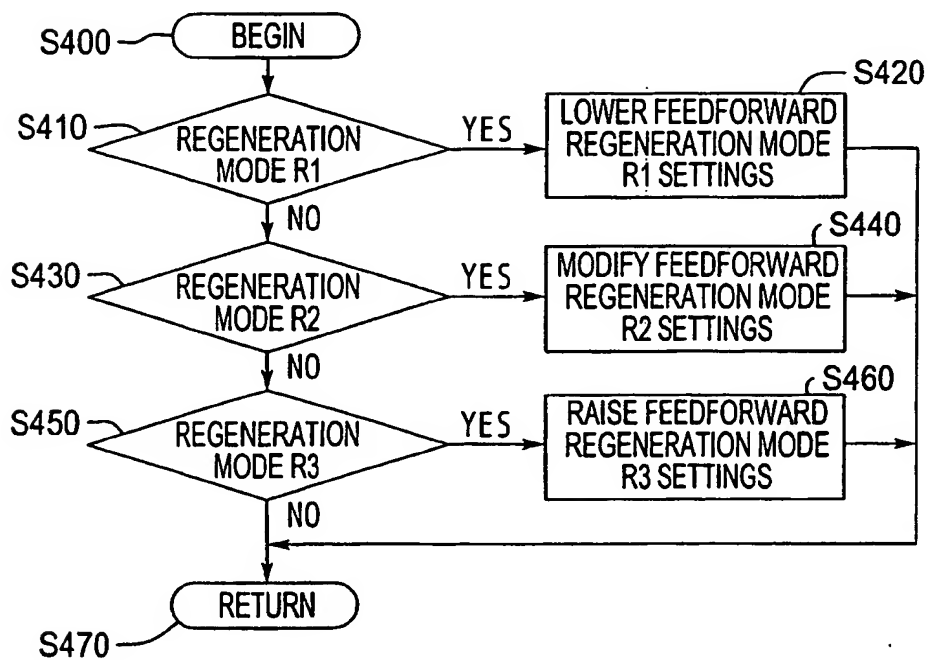


Fig. 13

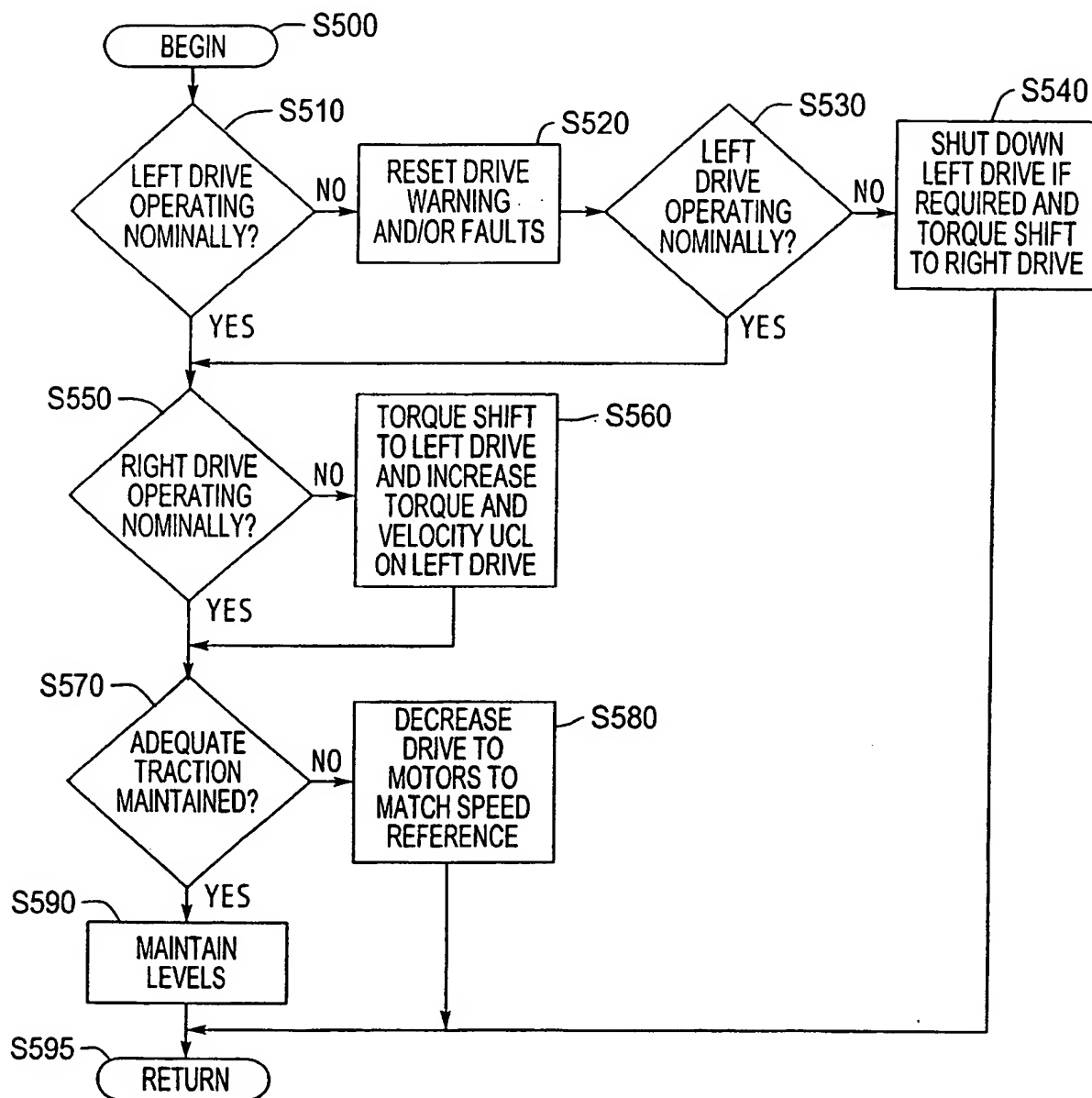


Fig. 14

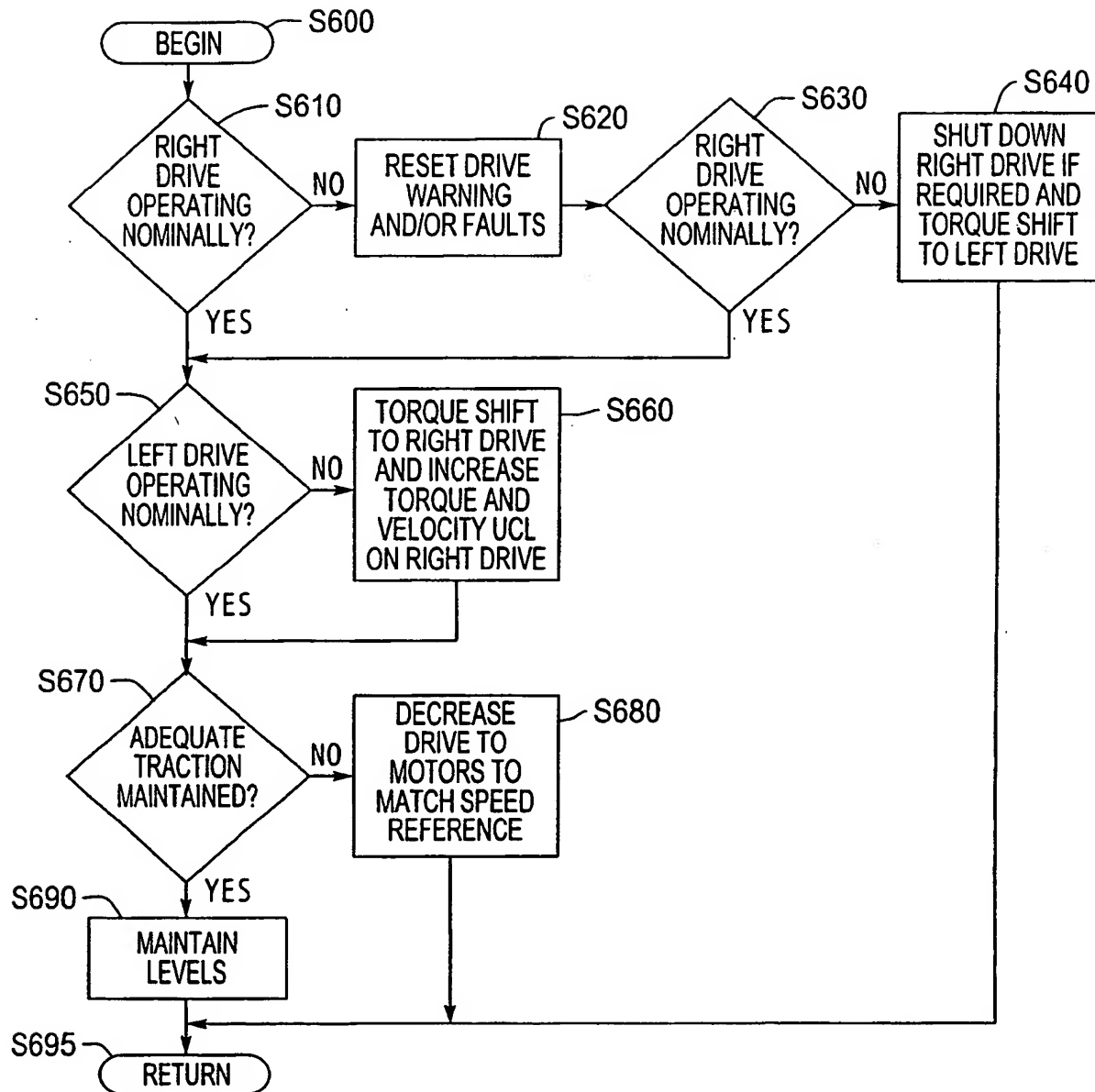


Fig. 15



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 12 9660

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X	US 5 785 138 A (YOSHIDA MASATO) 28 July 1998 (1998-07-28)	1,6	B60L11/12
Y	* abstract * * figures 3,12 * * column 8, line 13 - line 25 * * column 9, line 62 - column 10, line 40 * * column 20, line 52 - column 21, line 22 *	2-5,7-10	
Y	--- US 5 898 282 A (YIP DOUGLAS ET AL) 27 April 1999 (1999-04-27) * abstract * * figure 1 * * column 1, line 50 - line 67 * * column 2, line 47 - line 67 * * claims 1,3,4,6,7,11,13 *	2-5,7-10	
A	--- US 5 650 713 A (SETAKA YOUSUKE ET AL) 22 July 1997 (1997-07-22) * abstract * * figures 1,2 * -----	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B60L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 22 September 2003	Examiner Vanata, D
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 12 9660

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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22-09-2003

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